

CLASS WAR

25 YEARS

WORKING CLASS & PROUD

YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE...

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**HOW TO KEEP WARM
DURING THE CREDIT CRUNCH...**

HOW TO KEEP WARM DURING THE CREDIT CRUNCH...





BURN A BANKER!



INSIDE ALL YOUR FAVOURITES PLUS

CLASS, WAR, FAMINE, PESTILENCE & DEATH

WELCOME TO ISSUE 95!

Although we're not ones to go deeply into design, we'd like to say a few words about the new logo. It's been 25 years since we first used the Soldier Dolls' skull and crossbones, and we felt it time to replace the skull. The bones remain the same. In the last 25 years a lot of things about the paper have changed. There's no more Sally Skull, for example. But we felt that the skull had lost its menace and become, with familiarity, more friendly than threatening.

When we changed the skull, we decided to change the font too. Some of you will recall the dripping blood masthead we had originally. We believe that the new font marries the best part of that and of the 'traditional' look. So, we're building on the best aspects of our design from the past quarter-century and introducing new elements. We hope you like the new design as much as we do! We've kept the old logo on our Cop Memorials of London poster – see centre pages – as a tip of the hat

SUPERMARKET SHAKES TAGGED!

Stealing from employers, mortgage fraud, car and travel insurance fraud are all on the up as the Credit Crunch bites... and so is shop lifting according to a recent report. Perhaps the best example of the crunch is that many supermarkets have had to step up their security. Sainsbury's and Tesco have both attached security tags to their chicken and meat - in particular, the more expensive organic items. The devices have to be removed at the till, and let off a shrill alarm if anyone walks out of the door without having the tag removed. Until now, the electronic tags have been attached to small, expensive goods which are easy to sell on such as perfume, batteries, razor blades, booze and DVDs. But with a whole organic chicken costing nearly £10 on average, temptation has increased. Even more bizarrely, the latest 'must-have' for shoplifters is Slim Fast shakes. Yes, really. The £7 six packs of the meal replacement drinks have been security-tagged after disappearing en masse from supermarket shelves. Not to be outdone, workers have been getting in on the action! Accountants BDO Stoy Hayward reveal employee fraud cost UK companies more than £77 million in the first half of 2008 – up a whopping £67 million on the same period last year! People are helping themselves to stock, software and massaging expenses claims

SUPPORT ANDY LITTLECHILD!

Andy Littlechild is a most effective Trade Union rep. He works for Metronet (the Tube maintainers), runs his shop like a mini-soviet, completely democratic, is loved by all of his members, runs rings around the managers and really pisses off Transport for London (TfL) - he has red and black flags on the wall of his office! He also helps run a stall at the London Bookfair every year.

Now TfL are going for him.

He's been suspended from work, expelled from the premises at 3 in the morning with no means of getting home, and is facing 4 charges of gross misconduct on trumped up health and safety allegations. This is going to be the first major battle with the new Boris administration who are keen to pick off leading activists (2 others are currently "under investigation").

The RMT are balloting for strike action and have organised a meeting to support Andy. We wish him luck.

I request that in the event of my death any part of my body may be used for the treatment of others. However, no part of my body may be used for the treatment of members of the British National Party, serving or retired police officers, members of the British Royal Family, or anyone entitled to sit in the House of Lords



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RIP ANT

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Now TIL are going for him.

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Full signature: _____



I would like to help someone to live after my death - but not someone who should be dead anyway

www.antifa.org.uk

REMEMBER REMEMBER....

BONFIRE

Bonfire party 5th. Nov

Wednesday from 7 pm

London Fields, Hackney



— see centre pages — as a tip of the hat to the service it's rendered over the year.

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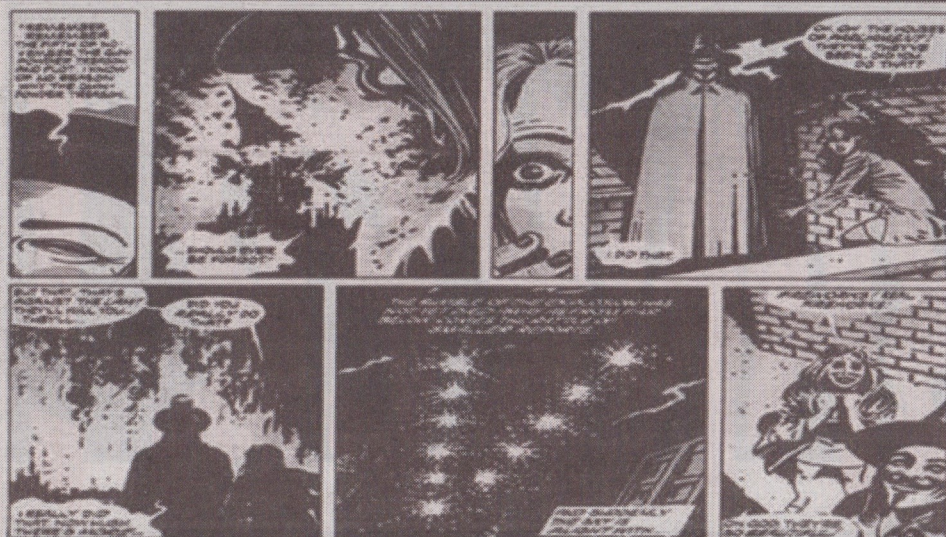
Long Card

I would like to help someone to live after my death - but not someone who should be dead anyway

www.anti.org.uk

REMEMBER REMEMBER....

BONFIRE

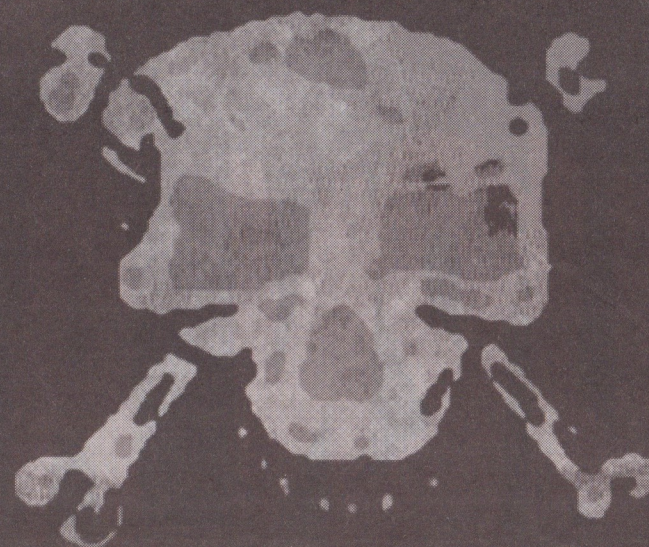


LONDON FIELDS
7PM NOVEMBER 5

Bonfire party 5th. Nov

Wednesday from 7 pm

London Fields, Hackney



Bring effigies, fireworks & booze
www.londonclasswar.org



TESCO

taking the piss

It's no news that the price of food has shot up over the past year. The prices of staples like rice and pasta have rocketed, up by 111% and 75% respectively. And this is going on in the context of an effective doubling of income tax for many working class families, with the end of the 10% tax rate.

As if this wasn't enough, the current economic uncertainty is affecting people across the country, as the government insists on wage restraint and the prospect of mass redundancies looms.

The attitude of supermarkets like Tesco

prices look set to soar, especially in areas where one supermarket chain has a monopoly. When Tesco cut prices it's not to be good to the consumer, but to attract people away from their competitors: Richard Brasher, Tesco's commercial director, made this clear recently when he said 'We will make sure that if there is a price war we will win it'. Not a sausage there about the good of competition for the consumer or how Tesco looks after its loyal customers! Customers come a distant second to turnover and profits at Tesco.

You don't need us to tell you supermarkets like Tesco are coining it in at the expense of the working class. The question is, do we keep taking it or do we do something about it? It's not

"Robin Hoods" following previous raids. They take only packets of pasta, rice and catons of milk which they drop in the middle of the street for people to collect, a police official said. "They have never stolen money or hurt anyone. They ask people to remain calm but use ambush tactics, jumping over cash desks," he said. "When they attack without hoods, people are surprised to see that they are mostly women." SURELY A TACTIC WORTH TRYING HEREINTHECOMING RECESSION...

When, on Mayday 2005, British anarchists tried to do something similar in Hackney, it was not attended by the same success. However, that was then and there's a very different cli-

The attitude of supermarkets like Tesco in this context is appalling. In the middle of September, Tesco announced they'd worked out that we're more concerned about food prices now than any time since 1988! Hardly surprising when the average family's paying out

the equivalent of the working class... question is, do we keep taking it or do we do something about it? It's not like food's a luxury we can do without!

We at Class War believe it's time to show working class people are no longer prepared to be shat on

same success. However, that was then and there's a very different climate now. We at Class War appreciate that the demand for fair food prices needs support for success, and we believe that the changed situation bodes well for a popular campaign. Taking on



more than £1,000 extra shopping this year compared to last. Tesco followed up their research by reporting profits of £1.43 billion for the first SIX months of this year. That's £90.70 per SECOND. Its profits were up 11.3% over the same period last year – although they claim to have protected shoppers by not passing on the full impact of price rises.

It is many years since there were food riots in the UK. But if prices continue to rise while working class families suffer the same, or increasing, money worries they may make a return. And food

and charged extortionate prices for food like rice and pasta. People abroad have shown a way forwards:

In September Greek anarchists stormed a supermarket and handed out food for free in the latest of a wave of raids provoked by soaring consumer prices.

About 20 unarmed people, mostly wearing black hoods, carried out the midday robbery in the northern city of Thessaaloniki, police said. Local media have labelled the raiders

MAYDAY MAYHEM, HACKNEY TESCO 2005

Tesco is not something we propose lightly. But if something isn't done, Tesco and their ilk will continue to profiteer from the situation, refusing

to recognise any responsibility for their actions. Many people are already finding it difficult to juggle their finances, and it would be beyond sickening to see the price of food, already becoming extortionate, move beyond people's means to pay.

Nonsense in the New Statesman

Few Class War readers will see the New Statesman on a regular basis – think a weekly magazine for Polly Toynbee, New Labour councillors and left wing social workers, and you are half way there. Its political editor, Martin Bright, is best known for regurgitating the Metropolitan Police fantasy that May Day demonstrators in 2001 planned to turn up on Oxford Street armed with Samurai swords to confront the cops.

On 7 August the New Statesman ran a lengthy piece by Stephen Armstrong entitled “The New Spies” looking at the rise of the private security industry in Britain. In it Armstrong alleged that Class War was run by the security services in the 1990s. Although the New Statesman was happy to print Armstrong’s attack, they ignored correspondence from us on this matter, something which tells us a lot about them as a publication. We reprint below the response from a member of London Class War that they declined to publish:

As a member of Class War since 1992, I was staggered to read a line in Stephen Armstrong’s article (the New Statesman 7 August 2008) on “The New Spies”. Your reporter writes:

“Like the state security services, which ended up running Class War in the 1990s after a hugely successful penetration.....” Can you back that claim up with facts, or is any old rubbish acceptable when it comes to Anarchist organisations? We do hope you have not been taken in by 9/11



BNP PIGS

Oh dear, oh dear! Seems some little piggy has got himself into a spot of bother. Policeman Stuart Janaway has just lost his job for wearing a BNP badge to a football match against Hungary at Old Trafford in 2006. The Chief Constables Order 2004 states that officers are banned from being members of the BNP, Combat 18 or the National Front. Although Stuart had nothing to say for himself, BNP spokesman, Simon Darby called said: “We think what police officers do in their own time is up to them. We trust them to be able to do their job when

Former chief superintendent Alec Alexander was sent down for 10 years in August following a conviction for raping his daughter. He was also convicted of two counts of indecent assault on her and one charge of taking an indecent picture of her. The attacks occurred over many years while he was a senior cop. On top of this, he was found to have more than 65,000 child porn pictures on his computer. We hope his time in prison is nasty, brutal and short.

On 7 October Thames Valley cop DC David Muddiman was handed a 12 month suspended sentence, 200 hours of community service and told to pay costs of £625 following his conviction for possessing a knife whilst off duty. It seems the 44 year-old produced the blade in an argument with a group of youths on New Year’s Day.

Information recently released shows that Welsh cops have been committing a wide range crimes over the past three years. Two Dyfed-Powys cops were investigated for possessing child porn. Others have been questioned about sexual assault, threats to kill, and forgery. Apparently seven out of ten cops nicked were convicted. South Wales Police arrested 22 of their number, on charges as diverse as possession of Class A drugs, stealing from their own force, intimidating witnesses, arson and threatening behaviour. Officers from North Wales Police received a range of convictions, from corruption and ‘getting out of hand while they were meant to be on duty’, whatever that means, to common assault and a number of driving offences. Suspiciously, Gwent Police haven’t managed to convict a single member of their force over the past three years. Could this be because they’re

We do hope you have not been taken in by 9/11 'truth' activists (and ex-MI5 officers) Annie Machon and David Shayler, who have both come out with conflicting claims about attempted state infiltration of Class War in the early 1990s. Shayler withdrew his (contradictory) claims about Class War at a public debate with Notes From the Borderland magazine at Conway Hall in 2005. He now makes a living claiming to be the Messiah. As for his former partner Annie Machon (freely quoted in your piece) the New Statesman should treat with caution a woman who has pushed red baiting pieces about Tony Benn, Jack Jones and the KGB in the Mail on Sunday, and who has worked alongside some extremely dubious characters in the nuttier fringes of the 9/11 'truth' movement. As a revolutionary organisation, Class War is bound to be targeted - on occasion - by the police and security services. Such is life - especially in a society with seemingly never ending funds for public order policing and the secret state. That situation will not be improved as long as we have 'experts' with the limited or biased knowledge of Stephen Armstrong, Annie Machon and David Shayler. It will certainly continue until we have the sort of radical change this society needs.

TIPPING THE SCALES

Lardy Lothian and Borders cops have been banned from patrolling in cars because they tip the cars over the legal weight! In some cases, there's only enough spare capacity for one passenger, leading to the ludicrous situation that they have to call for back-up (and extra pies) if they stop two suspects! As one cop said, 'it's a bit rich for us to be pulling people over for overloading their cars when our own vehicles might be illegal'. Sadly it's unlikely to stop them, though.

police officers do in their own time is up to them. We trust them to be able to do their job when they're working and operate in a fair and impartial way. This is pernicious Stalinism. It really is bringing it home to people that we live in a Soviet-style regime. What would happen if they were wearing a Labour Party or Liberal Democrat badge at a football match? It's appalling." Would your regime be any better Mr Darby?

Stuart! Take your little badge and fuck off!

BENT COPPERS

Gravesend custody seargeant Zak Owen was jailed for seven years in March for misconduct in a public office, possessing a gun, false imprisonment, fraud and theft. Not content with copying prisoners' credit card details and using them to buy things on the internet, he also advertised a car then threatened three men who turned up to buy it with his CS spray and stole £4,790 from one of them, Owen being on duty and in uniform at the time! Even in the annals of bent coppers, this is certainly a belter! It seems that Owen's a bit of a gambler, but so crap at picking the ponies that he fell deeply into debt, leading to his descent into crime.

Stephen John Price, 43, a constable with Norfolk Constabulary, was convicted of fraud in August. He made a false insurance claim over photographic gear worth more than £2,100. Sentenced to 180 hours of community service and with £1,000 costs to pay, Price was warned he might lose his job and pension! His partner, Berit Hedegaard, also employed by Norfolk police, was also convicted for the same offence and given 200 hours community service. At the time of writing, Price remains suspended, but must be expecting the sack as he's moved to Lancashire.

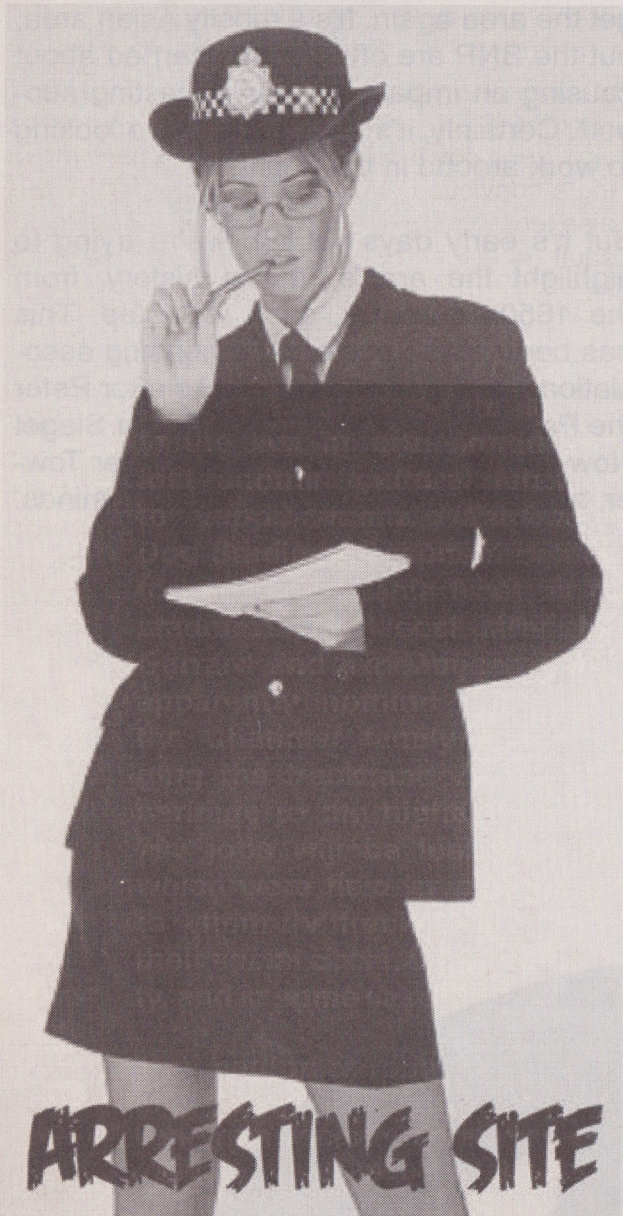
convict a single member of their force over the past three years. Could this be because they're up to something?

PC Andy Graham's pounding the beat no more following a conviction for assault. While on patrol in Wembley Graham and a colleague found Mahdi Jamal passed out on a bench. When they woke him, he responded as you'd expect: swearing at them and telling them to leave. Graham then led Jamal into a park and, witnessed by a sergeant, tripped Jamal and kicked him several times, later claiming that it was self-defence. Fortunately that old chestnut didn't work and latest reports suggest Graham's going down.



TOP TOFF, HEAD'S OFF..

Millionaire business man Gerald Mellion, 54 has come up with a very strange way of getting revenge on his estranged younger wife after their marriage collapsed. Jealous Gerald tied one end of a rope around his neck and the other end around a tree he then climbed into his £90,000 open top Aston Martin DB7 and sped into a busy road as other drivers looked on in horror. The police found his headless corpse in the driver's seat and his head on the back seat! We at Class War HQ are encouraging other top business men to follow suit and are literally laughing our heads off!



THE END OFF FREEDOM

Most people realise that we now live in a surveillance society but do we truly think about it? Email and mobile phones are accessed daily and people are now broadcasting themselves over the internet. Networking sites, like Facebook and MySpace, can be used to see a complete timeline of internet activity of the person using the account. Storage of IP addresses, login times and friends lists over time allows the building up of a complete picture of how that person operates during the day, where they travel, who they talk to and perhaps even being able to predict when that person will look on to a specific computer. Using mobile phones can provide people with these same details. Mobile phone companies are obliged to store all data that transfers through their systems for 12 months and they can pass this information on if they wish to market research companies and even the police. Most people acknowledge that this occurs but seem to accept it and even forget it. Basically just remember these points: your phone has the potential to pinpoint where you are most of the time; and social networking sites can be used by employers to 'snoop'. So try and add a scandalous photo of your boss on there.

rested, why not try and 'ben dover' or 'Ian Blair' as a contact... could be funny? see if you can trigger off the guys at Echelon by saying as many key words such as terrorist, bomb, IRA, islam, in a minute.



PART TIME PLOD

David Davies, Tory MP, and member of the Welsh Assembly, is a British Transport Police Special Constable. Pictured above in his cop clobber, he wanders the stations of London. So, if you see BTP PC6682, take the opportunity to say hello to Mr Davies. We're sure his interest must be in combating crime, rather than the travel benefits accruing to BTP cops.

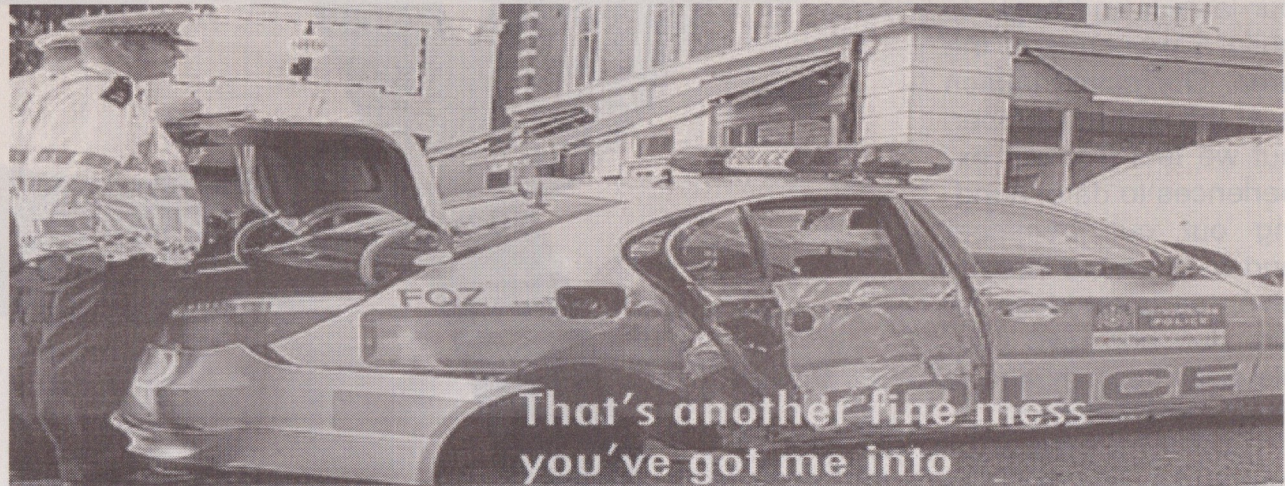
COP A LOAD OF THIS!

Bungling bobbies (or should that be boobies) have invited the public to contact them through an internet porn site that includes police strippers and hardcore gay sex! The pervy plod wanted the Sussex public to contact them about local crime. Instead of sussex.police.co.uk the flyers listed sussexpoice.co.uk a porn site not linked to the police in any way. The filth have not been able to get the site closed down. Apparently, there have been sightings of a lot of red faced coppers on the beat! (we kid you not) The force said 'it is determined to fight 'crime and grime'.

ON THE JOB

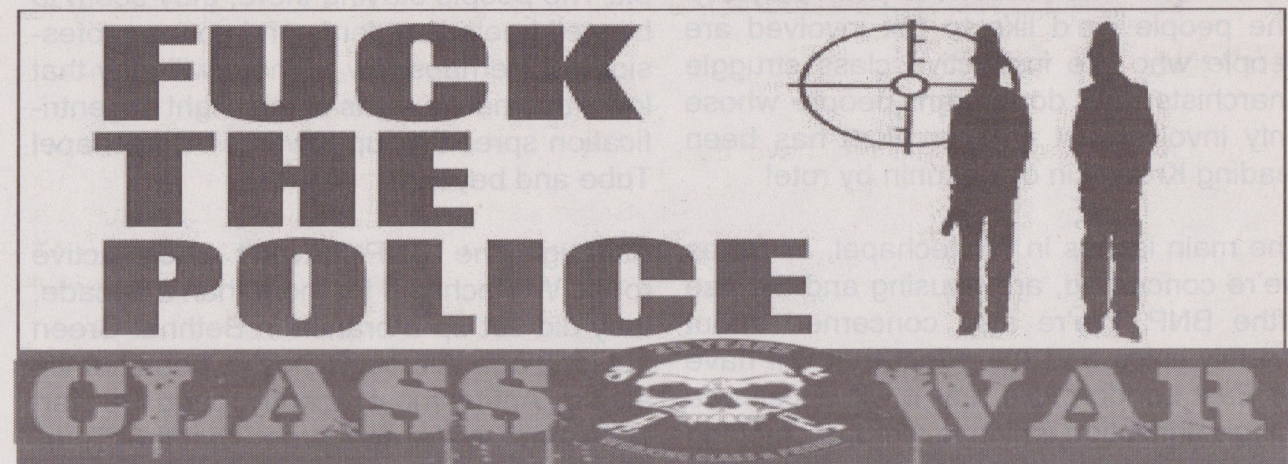
Passionate porky pig caught with pants down

As reported in recent issues of Class War, there seems to be a constant flow of our boys in blue caught 'on the job' with prostitutes (are they not getting enough at home?). This time we move to Merseyside where disgraced Sergeant Cliff, 42, pestered one prostitute so much that she reported him to already suspicious colleagues! Why were they suspicious? Because he regularly failed to turn up to 999 emergency calls because of his nocturnal habits. When he turned up to Liverpool Crown Court in July he was heard saying "I'm fucked now, aren't I" Well, you certainly were weren't you?! His favourite spot for picking up hookers apparently was a B&Q car park, us at Class War have some sound advice for randy officers: do it yourself!



POLICE CORRUPTION

Class War HQ has learnt that £77 million was spent by the Met in the last two years investigating bent coppers. That's more than a staggering £3 million per month of our own money being used by these corrupt bastards to investigate each other! And that figure is for London filth alone. Imagine the bill for the whole of the UK! The money is being used to investigate the pigs for crimes on and off duty with the most frequent crimes being domestic violence, drug abuse and crimes of that nature. These cunts are unbelievable they spend the time pissed up, drugged up and beating their wives and all they have to worry about is their mates investigating them at the expense of us, the ones they beat up and lock up! Class War response? ACAB!



EastEnders

2008 has seen a number of new local anarchist groups set up in London, from Camden to Whitechapel. Here, a member of Whitechapel Anarchist Group tells us something of the group's origins and its aims.

It's strange that Whitechapel, with anarchist associations going back more than a hundred years, hasn't had an anarchist group for a long time now. The Sidney Street Siege took place just down the way in 1911, and Cable Street's just round the corner. The London Action Resource Centre, LARC, used to be an anarchist school in the 1920s and Freedom's been in the area for many years. Yet it was only a couple of months ago some of us got together and decided to go for it. So, what we've done to get some propaganda

east from the City. Just look at Brick Lane, half the market on the weekend's filled with yuppies or their sympathisers. The other half, they're marginalized in the market as the yuppies would like to marginalize them in the area. It wasn't this way before, and it's a sign of some local difficulty to come. But Whitechapel's been a working class

get the area again. It's a mostly Asian area, but the BNP are often as concerned about causing an impact as gaining lasting support. Certainly, it's something we're looking to work around in the future.

But it's early days yet. So we're trying to highlight the area's radical history, from the 1650s onwards, as a first step. This has been made easier by a housing association naming two tower blocks after Peter the Painter, out of the Sidney Street Siege! Now there's Peter Tower and Painter Tower, and the Siege's back in people's minds.

Welcome To



WHITECH PEL

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When we first thought about setting up a group, we felt that it was very important to publicise ourselves. The anarchist

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An invitation...

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When we first thought about setting up a group, we felt that it was very important to publicise ourselves. The anarchist movement's been self-referential for too long, and a lot of people who'd otherwise get involved won't, because it's too inward looking. We want to do something fresh, something which will capture the imagination of people in Whitechapel and further afield, and attract people who want to make a serious point playfully. The people we'd like to get involved are people who are instinctive class struggle anarchists. We don't want people whose only involvement in anarchism has been reading Kropotkin or Bakunin by rote!

The main issues in Whitechapel, as far as we're concerned, are housing and the rise of the BNP. We're also concerned about the Olympics and the effect that will have on East London. We fear it will accelerate the gentrification which is already creeping

area for generations, and we hope to see it stay so. Opposite LARC there's a load of yuppie 'lofts' been built where Lenin and Stalin stayed when they were in London for a Bolshevik conference in the early 1900s. I think, or rather hope, it's built on a plague pit! The people staying there, they seem to be well-heeled students and young professionals. Perhaps few of them will stay that long, but there's signs of the blight of gentrification spreading up towards Whitechapel Tube and beyond.

Although the BNP haven't been active round Whitechapel for more than a decade, they did set up a branch in Bethnal Green not long ago. Although they've been humiliated by Antifa, most recently round the start of October, we're concerned that they'll tar-

An invitation...

We hope we can keep it there till the centenary! But we're laying the foundations to suit our ambitions, with one of our members setting up a blog - <http://whitechapelanarchist-group.wordpress.com/> - and a YouTube channel. We're going to be maintaining a presence in Brick Lane, and we hope to sort out a regular radio show or podcast. But first things first! I've mentioned our launch, at the end of October, and things will get firmed up after that. There's a lot to be getting on with round Whitechapel, and we aim to make it the hotbed of activity the facilities like Freedom and LARC out to host.

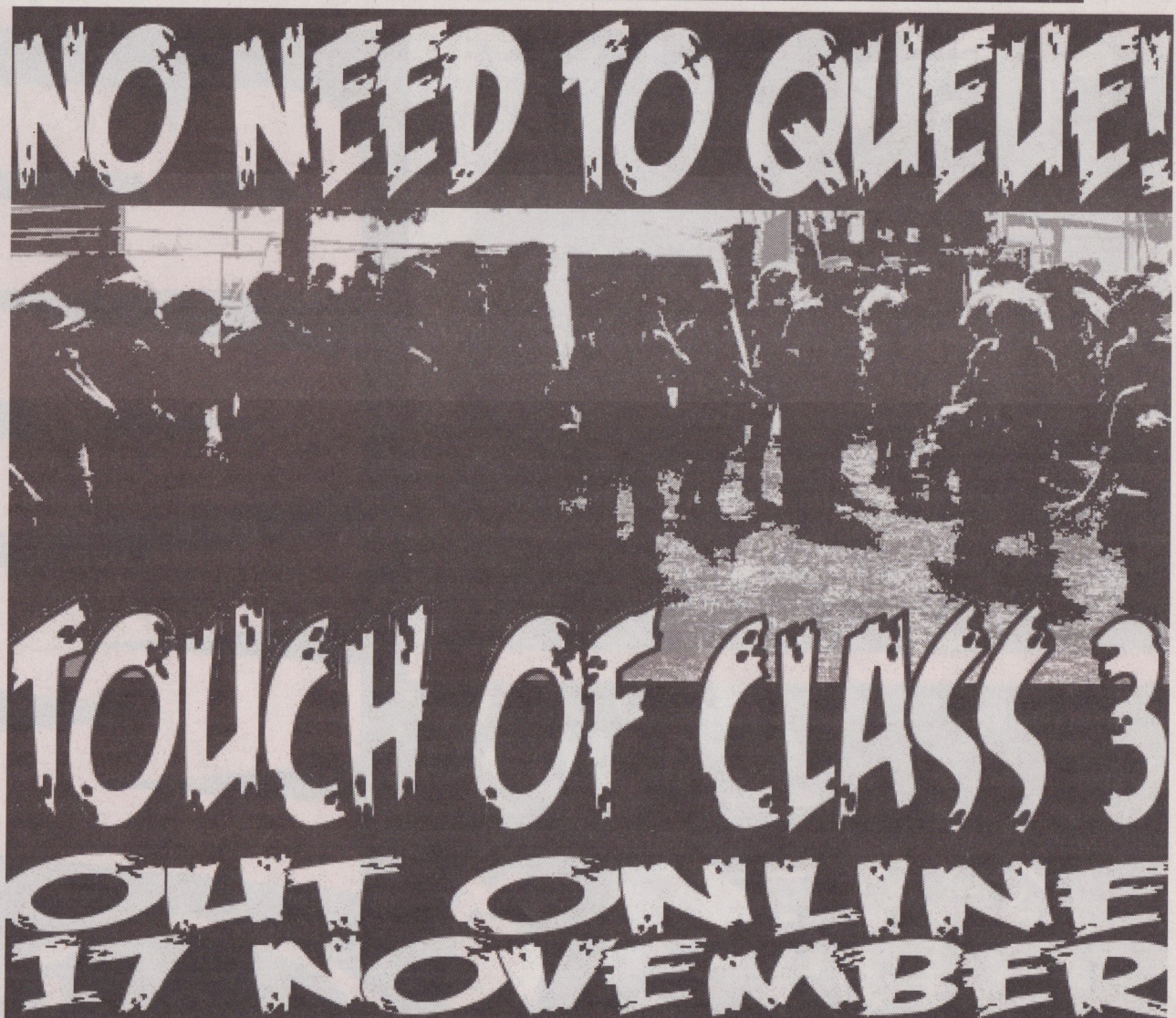
To contact WAG, please email them at whitechapelanarchists@riseup.net

A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE

As if going to jail wasn't bad enough, BT add insult to injury through their monopoly of phone provision in prisons. In fifteen Scottish prisons, and an unknown number of prisons in England, Wales and the Six Counties, BT forces inmates to pay well over the odds to talk to their friends and families, as this table shows:

Call time side	Cost to prisoner	Cost out- side
5 mins	£0.55	£0.40
10 mins	£1.09	£0.40
15 mins	£1.64	£0.40
20 mins	£2.18	£0.40
30 mins	£3.62	£0.50
45 mins	£4.90	£0.70
60 mins	£6.55	£0.80

This is even more disgusting when you consider the average weekly 'earnings' in prison are about £8. But complaining to the Prison 'Service' is unlikely to do much good: they receive a healthy chunk of the takings. This is an unacceptable situation, another cruel and callous way in which prisoners and their families are punished.



...POLICE INTELLIGENCE...
 ...SURVEILLANCE IN LIVERPOOL...
 ...ANARCHISM AND RELIGION...
 AND MORE!

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TOUCH OF CLASS 3 OUT ONLINE 17 NOVEMBER

...POLICE INTELLIGENCE...
...SURVEILLANCE IN LIVERPOOL...
...ANARCHISM AND RELIGION...
AND MORE!

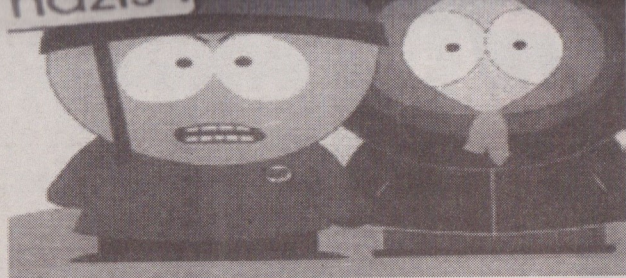
www.classwaruk.org

M a g g i e h a s l o s t h e r
m a r b l e s !

It's not often CW feels the need to nick copy from The Daily Mail, but in this case it's well worth it to celebrate the dementia of Thatcher.

Thatcher's squeaky voiced, jungle bothering daughter's book, A Swim-On Part in the Goldfish Bowl: A Memoir (serialised in the Daily Mail, probably with a free Maggie sex doll, with detachable Pinochet) Carol re-





AND MORE!

www.classwaruk.org

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m a r b l e s !

It's not often CW feels the need to nick copy from The Daily Mail, but in this case it's well worth it to celebrate the dementia of Thatcher.

Thatcher's squeaky voiced, jungle bothering daughter's book, *A Swim-On Part in the Goldfish Bowl: A Memoir* (serialised in the Daily Mail, probably with a free Maggie sex doll, with detachable Pinochet) Carol reports on her mother's "blotting paper brain" failing her in the past eight years. Thatcher apparently got confused between Bosnia and the Falklands and wasn't aware her husband, Denis was dead. She kept asking "were we all there?". Well you're certainly not all there any more Mags.

Carol Thatcher's new book is certain not to go down too well within the old Tory guard, as now she won't be capable of remembering all her crimes against us in power. She merely totters about the house all day, occasionally asking if Denis is alive and repeating the same questions over and over. Because of this, Gordon Brown has invited her to Checkers again on Saturday 13th September, to seek her advice on the credit crunch. For once though, Maggie will be in good company, as I doubt many of us would remember a conversation with Brown either.

Surely all this means the party is coming soon, so go on Mags, forget to turn the oven off and give us this party we've been waiting for!





COP MEMORIALS

CLASS



W

OF LONDON



COP MEMORIALS

SS WAR

OF LONDON



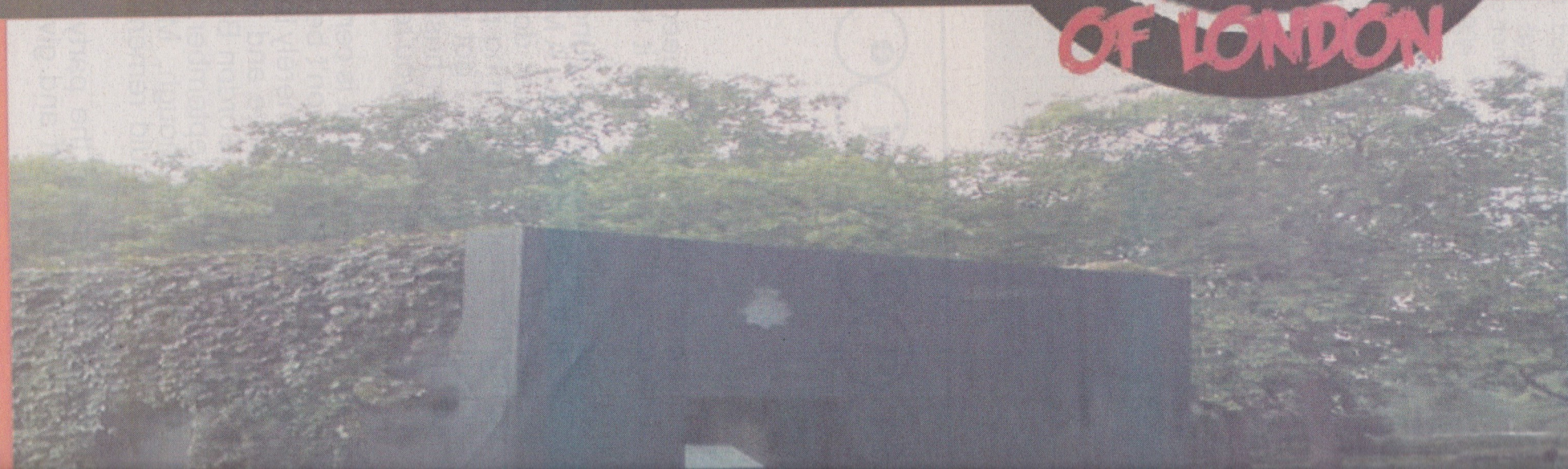
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CLASS



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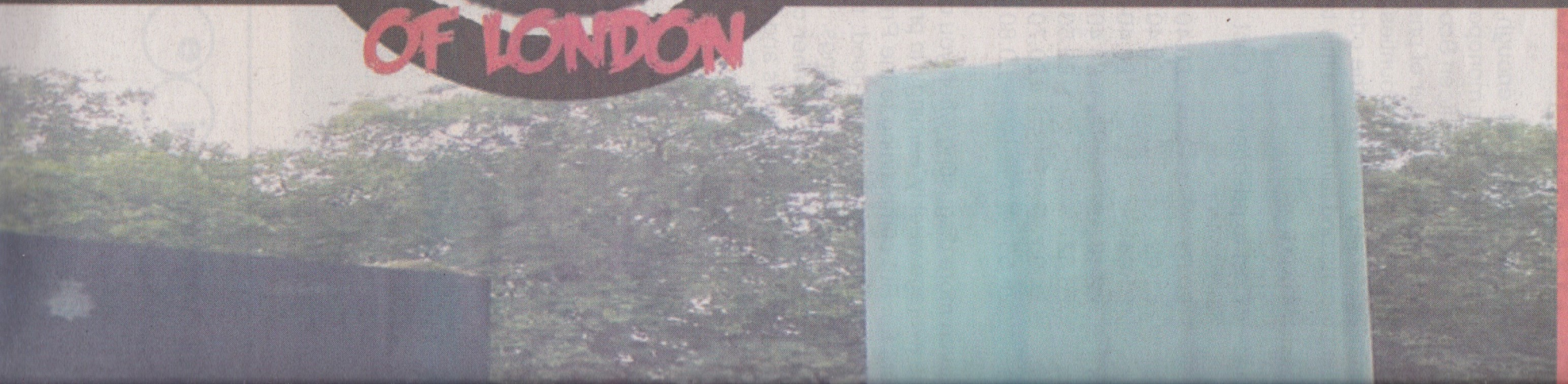
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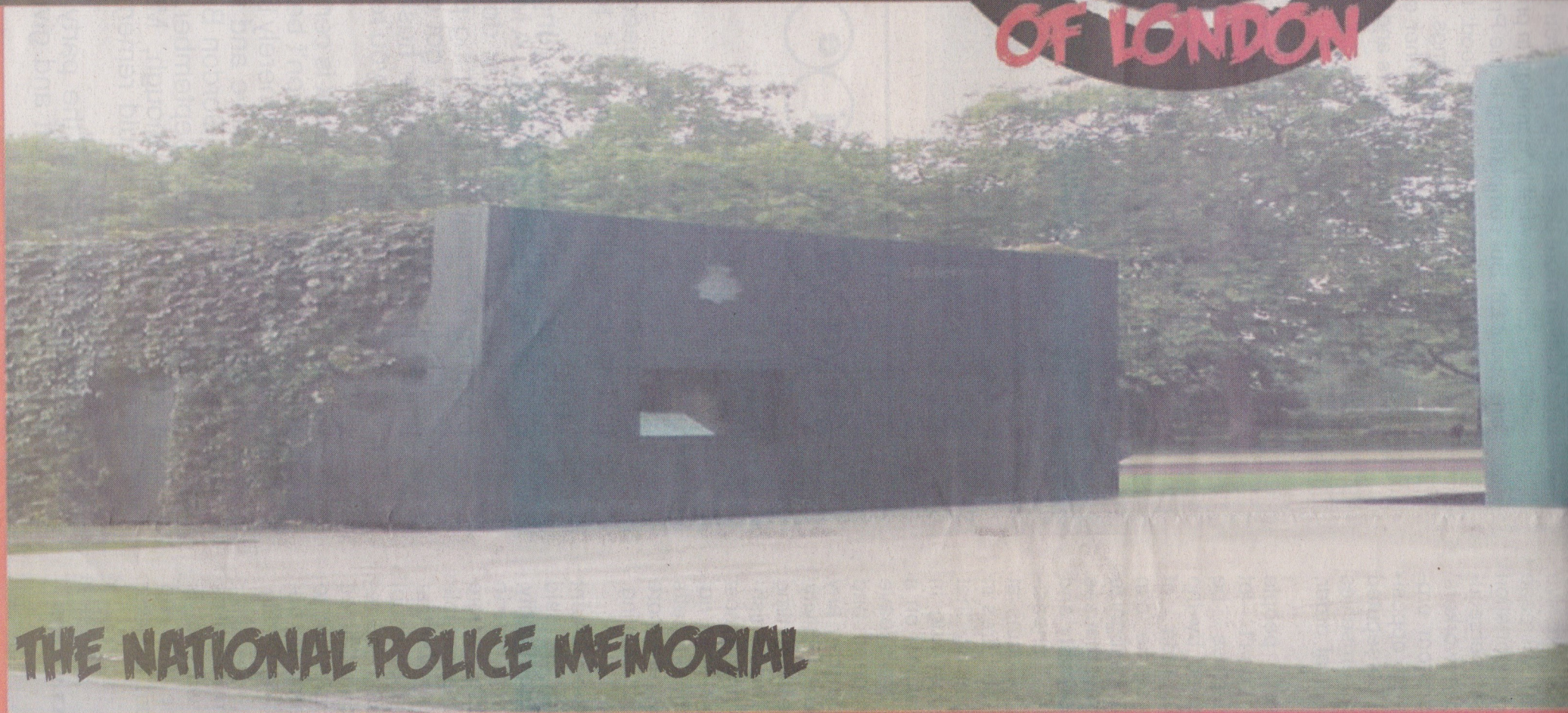
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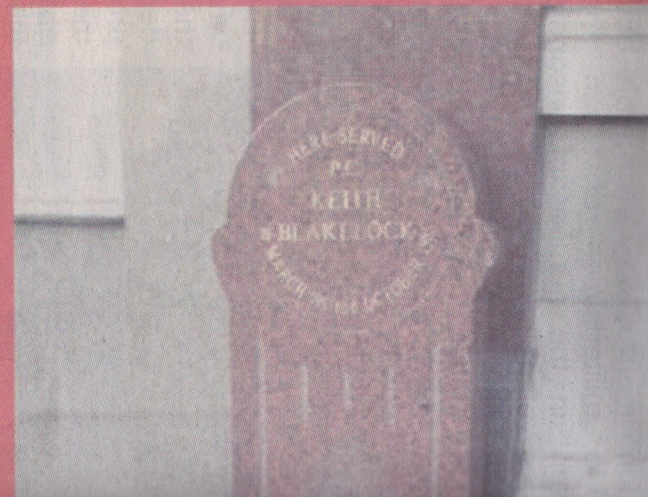
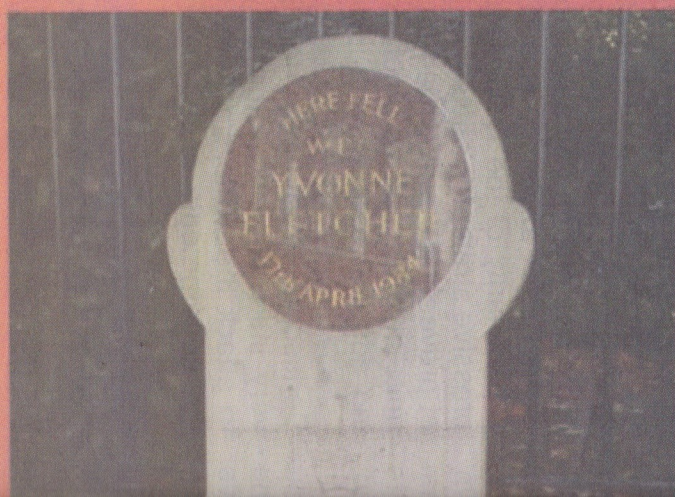


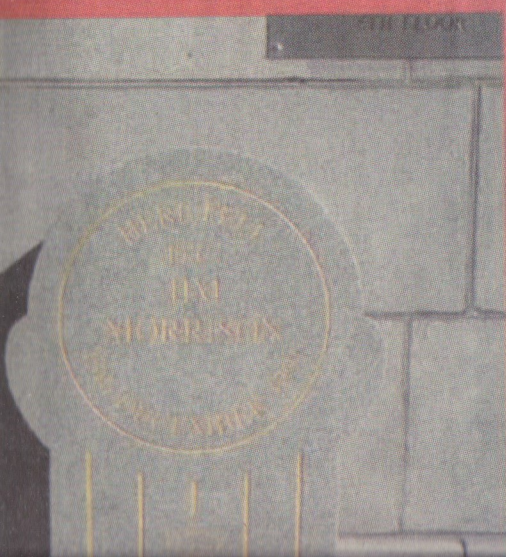
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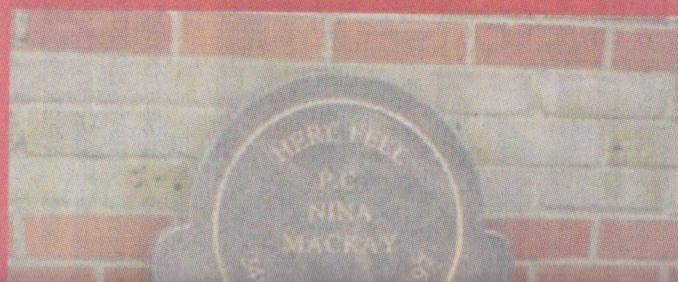
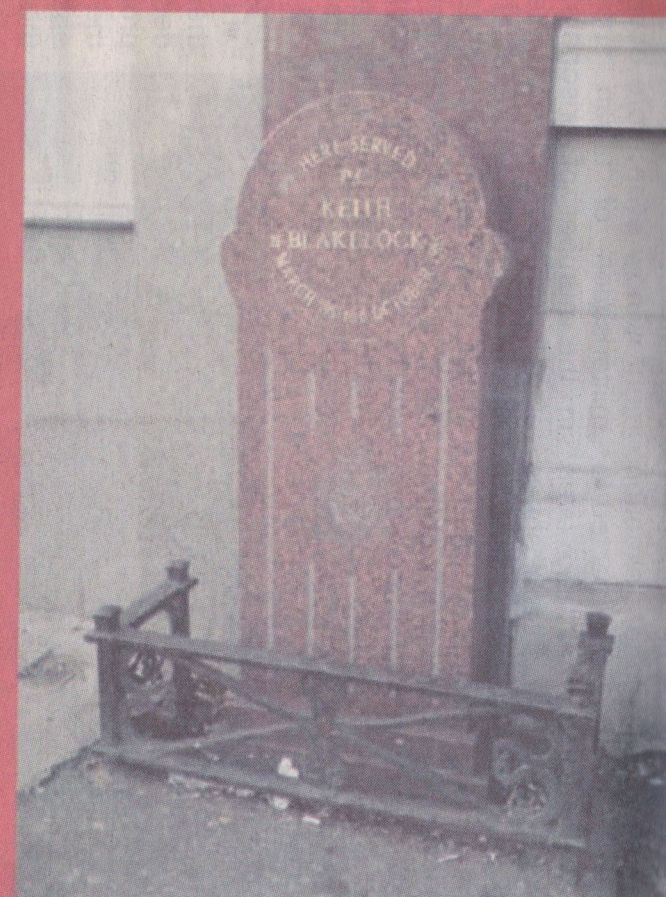
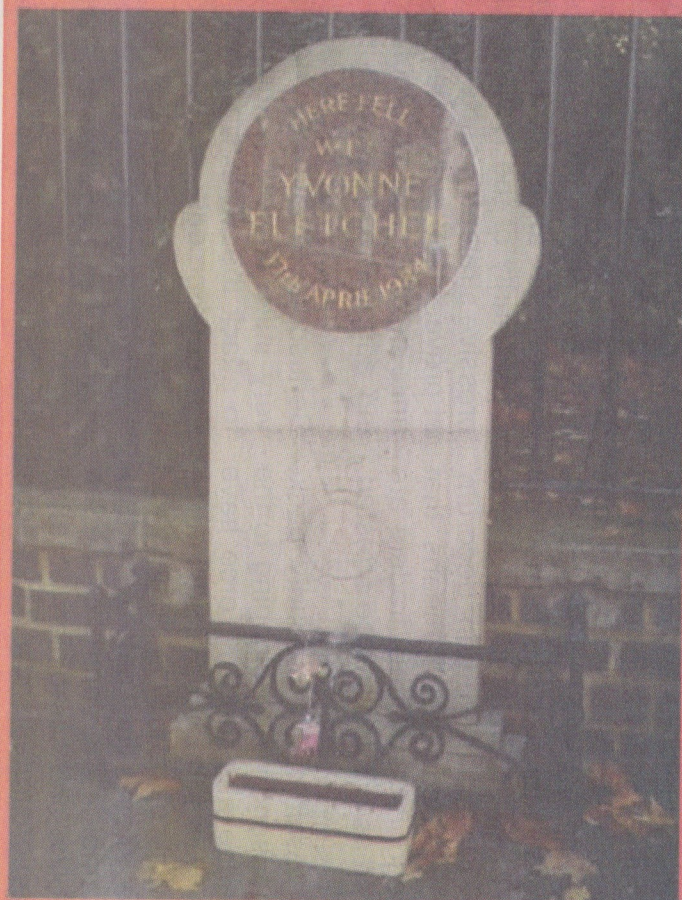


THE NATIONAL POLICE MEMORIAL

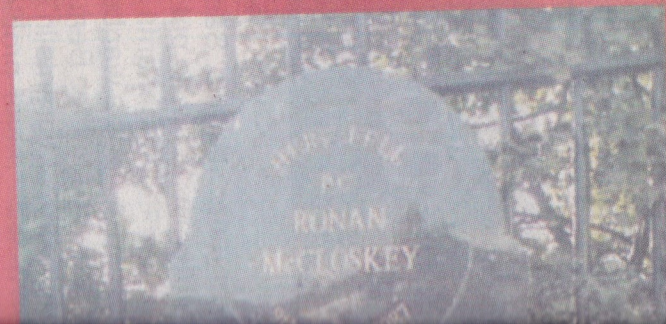
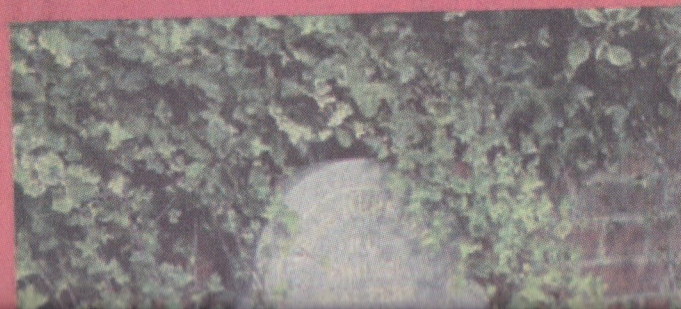
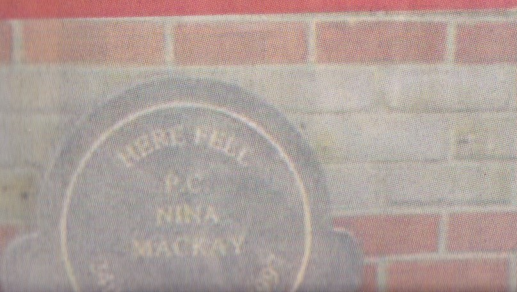




THE NATIONAL POLICE MEMORIAL



ORIAL



CLAC





INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ITALY 2008: BACK TO FASCISM?

On April 2008 a right-wing government, headed by Silvio Berlusconi, came to power in Italy. As everybody knows, Mr Berlusconi is a wealthy tycoon who has direct or indirect control of six of the seven TV channels from which the vast majority of Italians get their news and other information on which they form their opinion. It is not surprisingly, therefore, that one of the first actions of his government was the introduction of the so-called 'security package', a series of new laws on 'security'. The new measures look pretty much like those in force during Mussolini's fascist regime of the 1920s and 1930s.

Some leftist members of parliament have expressed their alarm at this 'security package', as they claim it represents an attack to democracy. Obviously these parliamentarians, who were the

camps. Sadly, it is not only right-wing fanatics who put fire to Roma camps but also the inhabitants of the poorest areas of big cities. It is a war between the poor, which is essential for Berlusconi to consolidate his power. Migrants in general are represented as the major problem in Italy, which is one of the most horrendous propaganda lies ever adopted by a government since the fascist era. Hence the worsening of the general situation of immigrants in Italy who are subjected to a series of new restrictions that make even more difficult for them to gain a 'legal' status and stay in the country. On one hand to be an immigrant without 'legal' identity documents is now officially a crime, on the other to obtain such documents is practically impossible.

The new laws of the 'security package'

and his bunch of fascist ministers are determined to consolidate a system that is strategically based on war: if in Iraq the Italian military forces are deployed to fight dangerous 'terrorists', in their cities their task is to repress any action of the 'internal enemy'.

Under Berlusconi, therefore, the trend inaugurated by the previous 'leftist' government is now even more obvious: massive militarisation of urban space, increase in the number of prisoners, deportation of immigrants and shameless persecution of all social struggles, from workers' strikes to squatting of houses, from protests against eco-devastation to opposition to war. Obviously the most persecuted are those who openly declare themselves enemies of the State and its social order.

Those people who don't let themselves be deceived by the propaganda of the regime can easily recognize the real causes



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Some leftist members of parliament have expressed their alarm at this 'security package', as they claim it represents an attack to democracy. Obviously these parliamentarians, who were the government yesterday and are the opposition today, are only concerned by political and electoral matters. Their democracy, in fact, was nothing less than an authoritarian regime. Not by chance

the 'question of security' was a favourite subject of Prodi's centre-left government, which also criminalized all forms of social and political dissent, evicted houses and social squats, demolished camps of gypsy

ics who put fire to Roma camps but also the inhabitants of the poorest areas of big cities. It is a war between the poor, which is essential for Berlusconi to consolidate his power. Migrants in general are represented as the major problem in Italy, which is one of the most horrendous propaganda lies ever adopted by a government since the fascist era. Hence the worsening of the general situation of immigrants in Italy who are subjected to a series of new restrictions that make even more difficult for them to gain a 'legal' status and stay in the country. On one hand to be an immigrant without 'legal' identity documents is now officially a crime, on the other to obtain such documents is practically impossible.

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also confer more power to mayors who can now suppress all demonstrations of protest in public spaces and criminalize the weakest categories (prostitutes, beggars, street traders). In other words mayors will have the power to punish 'abusive occupa-

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Those people who don't let themselves be deceived by the propaganda of the regime can easily recognize the real causes of 'insecurity' and 'social uneasiness'. Deaths at work and fires in workplaces that are occurring in Italy almost on a daily basis leave more dead and injured than any criminal activity. At the same time the impoverishment hitting most people does not depend on thefts

and robberies but on wages that are more and more inadequate to the cost of living.

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the 'question of security' was a favourite subject of Prodi's centre-left government, which also criminalized all forms of social and political dissent, evicted houses and social squats, demolished camps of gypsy people, repressed and deported immigrants and had systematic recourse to total institutions (prisons and psychiatric hospitals). The only real difference between the former government and the current one is that Berlusconi's men are more explicit in exposing their fascist views and do not even care about waving the flag of 'democracy'.

The racist approach of the 'security package' is particularly evident in the section concerning immigration. All Roma people living in Italy, even including children, are being fingerprinted to make sure that those who do not have 'regular' documents are deported. In order to make this heinous practice acceptable to the public opinion, a media campaign against Roma people, who are depicted as the cause of all problems afflicting the country, has been strategically put in action leading to a series of attacks to gypsy



also confer more power to mayors who can now suppress all demonstrations of protest in public spaces and criminalize the weakest categories (prostitutes, beggars, street traders). In other words mayors will have the power to punish 'abusive occupation of building' (squatting) and 'illegal occupation of public spaces' (unauthorized demos). They will also be able to intervene when road conditions are hampered, as happens when roadblocks are carried out as forms of protest. Moreover they are responsible for preventing 'urban decorum' from being disturbed, which means that prostitutes, beggars and street traders are now considered as criminals to be arrested.

Finally, as a result of the 'security package', three thousand men belonging to the Army, the Marine and the Air Force have been deployed in a number of Italian cities with the task of patrolling 'institutional and sensitive sites'. The employment of military personnel in the control of the territory (as if police and carabinieri were not sufficient) demonstrates how Berlusconi

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The real insecurity is caused by the constant growth of precarious jobs, which are paid very poorly and do not offer any job security, by continuous dismissal of workers (due to the transfer abroad of businesses, where the labour force is cheaper), by unaffordable renting prices and by a welfare system that cannot offer anything. This situation is not a peculiarity of the Italian government: repressive strategies and social control aimed at preventing the excluded and exploited to unite against their common enemy are being adopted everywhere, including Britain.

Berlusconi, Prodi or Gordon Brown makes very little difference, the only way out is to attack the State whatever the laws and the governments of the moment are like.

A FEW ANGRY ITALIANS

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Right-wingers trying a clean sweep in Denmark

The Battle of Freetown.



ANTRA INTERNATIONALS

Since the liberal PM came to power, supported by the nationalists nutters "Dansk Folkeparti, Danish Peoples party" and of course their partners in crime, the Tory tossers, anarchist communities has become an endangered species in Denmark.

Tension is now rising again in the little fairytale land of Denmark, which seems unable to keep itself of the dirty back

ing the outcome of a long standing trial between the community and the government, the PM, Anders Fogh and his black shirts are going for a clean swipe, at clearing the area before the case is heard. The property value of the entire place runs into billions and greedy friends of the PM can't wait to move/cash in.

More than 1000 people lives in Christiania and thousands more works or uses the area every day, but their resilience which they have shown over the last five years is now being heavily tested, because of the policing. This is not your every copper

The government seems determined on a confrontation and since they're absolutely useless when involved in riots, this seems more and more as a personal vendetta lead by the three loonies in power. As if the scale of disorder shown throughout last year hasn't taught them anything, this is surely getting in over your head. The support for this particular community is immense and this is not a case of evicting people from a single building, but an area covering several acres of land. Tension and confrontations is already becoming everyday life for people living in the area, both in and around the Free-

town and with the latest government rejection for finding a peaceful solution. This is now becoming a battle for more than just the right to make your own decisions in your community, is it a battle to stand up against the sweeping state fascism, which seems hell-bend on eradicating everyone who's not



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Tension is now rising again in the little fairytale land of Denmark, which seems unable to keep itself of the dirty back pages of international news. The cartoons made this little nation an international terror target alongside the mighty US. Tuff act to follow, but by selling one of the longest running social centres in Copenhagen, "Ungdomshuset" to a rightwing religious sect, with several of its members currently awaiting court hearings for child abuse, tax fraud and abduction, they managed again to hit the news, due to the full scale rioting which in evidently followed the eviction. The severity of the riot plus the following weekly demo, saw the police back down as they could no longer afford to keep up the heavy handed

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town and with the latest government rejection for finding a peaceful solution. This is now becoming a battle for more than just the right to make your own decisions in your community, is it a battle to stand up against the sweeping state fascism, which seems hell-bend on eradicating everyone who's not on the parti books and actually likes to think for themselves. This is a symptom, which is spreading rapidly in all of Europe, but thankfully also has acted as a wake up call to many sleeping militants. A collaboration of antifascist across Europe is in place, as this is not longer a local or nation-

al issue. It is an international problem and full scale activism against this sickening trend must be stopped.

For more info on the situation in the Freetown Christiania go to www.christiania.org



walking through your local estate. By order of the government the patrol in full scale riot gear, undercover coppers sneaking about shooting left, right and centre. Latest victim a little 2 year old puppy. . They thought it was going to attack them.. One café in particular is the Moonfisher. In the last years they have been visited by armed riot filth more than 8000 times I do

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to a rightwing religious sect, with several of its members currently awaiting court hearings for child abuse, tax fraud and abduction, they managed again to hit the news, due to the full scale rioting which in evidently followed the eviction. The severity of the riot plus the following weekly demo, saw the police back down as they could no longer afford to keep up the heavy handed present, which they had started out with. As the opinion poles continued their descent for the loony political alliance, their finest moment has yet to come !

Now commence the battle of Christiania. The wonderful and unique Freetown in the centre of Copenhagen and after Tivoli Garden, the most visited place in Denmark, is now facing the prospect of eviction (I.e. that's normalizing the area in politician language). Fifty six houses has so far be declared illegal and needs to be demolished, so instead of await-

walking through your local estate. By order of the government the patrol in full scale riot gear, undercover coppers sneaking about shooting left, right and centre. Latest victim a little 2 year old puppy. . They thought it was going to attack them.. One café in particular is the Moonfisher. In the last years they have been visited by armed riot filth more than 8000 times ! do the math yourself. This tactic employed by the state and their little puppets, is to stress the locals and visitors into submission. Several human rights groups has tried to highlight this issue, to little or no avail. So in case you're hiding Osama Bin Laden or sixteen kilos of hash in your eggs and beans, perhaps you might want to take your breakfast elsewhere.

So if your politics are shit and you're fucking useless at what you do, you can always start a fight.

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DEATH OF WALTHAM

In the last month, London has lost another cultural landmark to yuppification, Walthamstow Dog Stadium. Despite a belated, forlorn, limp media front by the stadium's two local MPs, Neil Garrard and Iain Duncan Smith, apparently nothing could stop the Chandler family from flogging the track and 77 years of heritage to the highest bidders. 700 jobs will be lost, many of which were held by pensioners, to whom the track was their life, their social circle, their community, and in some cases their family.

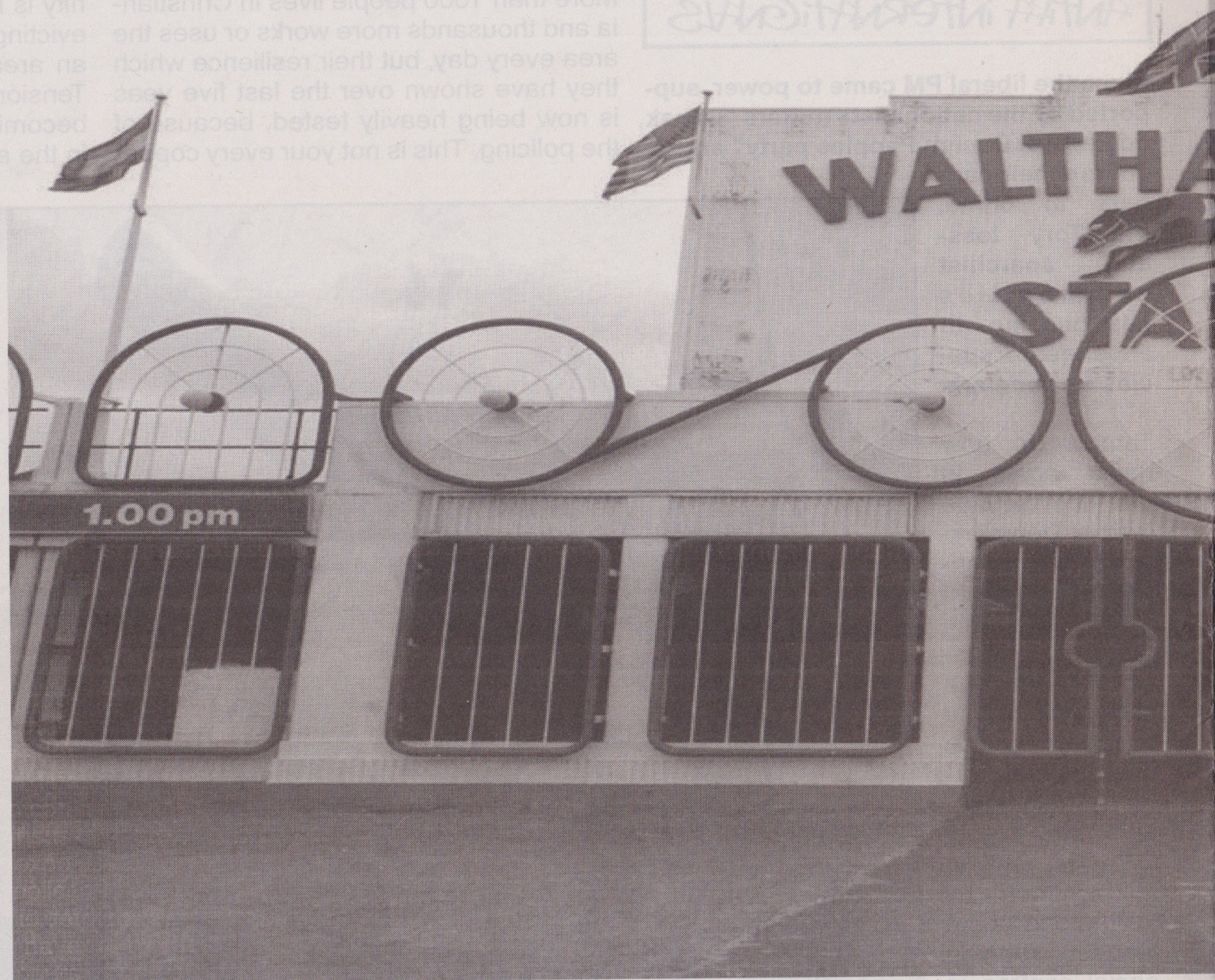
The dog track opened on 29th May 1931 to a stream of opposition from locals, fearing an 'unmitigated nuisance' in the area. Lieutenant Colonel S.S. Mallinson (a local resident presumably) was so moved by hordes of working classes enjoying themselves in his area he felt compelled to write to the Waltham Forest Gazette say-



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Walthamstow Dog Track was one of London's cultural icons - with entry just £3 - and people flocked from around the country to visit the stadium, giving all a fun, enjoyable, affordable night out.



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IMPOTENT

The buyers, L&Q Group, Yoo Capital and KW Linfoot apparently spent £30mn on a site containing two listed buildings and on top of a river full of sewage. Despite Waltham Forest Council and the MPs being up in arms over this, they were apparently powerless to stop it. In fact Waltham Forest Council were so powerless to stop it, they have actively permitted housing on the land and not the eyesore of a car park opposite, which, if any housing had to be built, would be a prime location. John Price, Duty Rota Head Of Planning at Waltham Forest Council told CW that Waltham Forest targets 50% affordable housing. This is merely a target, not a rule, so of course it can be broken. He went on to say there must be a replacement leisure facility built. How you replace a 77 year-old dog track is anyone's guess. A possible main reason for the council's lack of strong opposition is that the buyers must give an unspecified amount to Waltham Forest Council. He added that to counteract the loss of jobs, there

will be training schemes in place in computing and such. To the pensioners on the Tote I'm sure that will come as a great relief. We were also told that the area will be profitable because of the 'Olympic legacy'. Seeing as the land has no planning permission and work has not yet begun, houses will surely not be up by 2012 and, even so, what kind of legacy is a block of yuppie apartments?

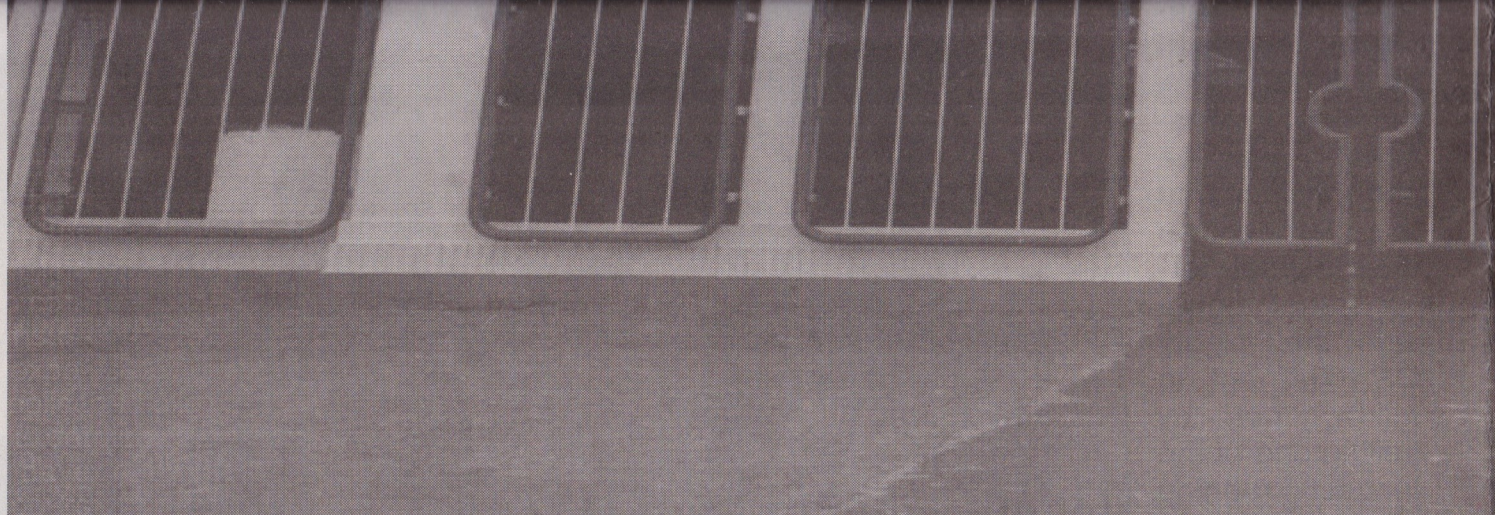
On a trip to the track, I met Martin Kelly, the groundsman at The 'Stow. He said "This place will flood with sewage. I've known for two years this was going, but got just 90 days notice. Cleaners, the Tote girls here, they've been here up to 70 years and none of them will ever get a new job. Their wages here keep them going. The millionaires don't give a fuck about the workers". The racing manager, who asked not to be named, said "They want to pull out. There'll be no work. They'll kill the community and friends. My wife has been here 31 years and she's lost her pension scheme. We've had no answers. They let this place run down and now it's closing they want to give it a lick of paint for the first time in ages. Charlie Chandler (the owner) is mak-

ing a fast buck and so are the shareholders. They ran the place badly so it had to close".

PISSPOOR

On the off chance, CW gave Iain Duncan Smith a call, and surprisingly he was willing to speak. He took a chance to snipe at the Labour council when he said "They'll run the area down. It's a terrible planning department. There's no enforcement, they've no idea how to use the money. They have a terrible track record and they let the area dilapidate. There's no market for houses. Without the dog track, there's nothing there. Marks and Spencers wanted to build on the car park and that was snubbed. The council are not building council houses. The whole area will be under pressure to change and locals will be priced out the area. Central London is too dear to go out in, it's too drink orientated. There's a slow middle class takeover and the working class will be outpriced". Nice words, but on the night of the first "Save our Stow" night, Mr Duncan Smith, despite assurances, was nowhere to be seen.

The Labour MP for Walthamstow, Neil Garrard said there had been no planning applica-



AMSTOW RACECOURSE

comments on the matter. Funny enough, all three companies were very reluctant to call us back. The one that did, KW Linfoot had appointed Luchfords as their media spokesgroup and I managed to talk to Marie Jackson from them, who sounded more like Michael Jackson with the needle stuck, as she repeated "No comment. No comment" to all my questions. Not sure why KW Linfoot needed to employ a media consultancy to say 'no comment' when plenty of people out there could do it for half the price they are on. I told her that one worker told me without the track and it's social life, she will just fade away until she died. Jackson's response "I think that's a bit harsh". Not quite. What is 'a bit harsh' is closing down a community, killing jobs, pricing out locals, ruining local shops, just so her employers can make millions.

SCANDAL



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Jonathan Hobbs, head greyhound writer at The Racing Post was keen to talk to us. He told us "this is a dreadful blow for sport. We hold out hope, with the current financial climate, the owners may take the money and run. Catford closed five years ago and now that's just an area of barren land. If that happens in Walthamstow, it'll be criminal and scandalous for the local community. What kind of legacy is that? Who would deny a community this facility? Chander's younger family didn't want this and they didn't

tion received yet. Some houses will be given over to so-called key workers though, so as Stow" before various names in the greyhound world came out to show support. Ricky Hollo-

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The plan at present is for a circle of tower blocks, where the track used to be. There has been no mention of affordable housing, just luxury apartments and the like, making yet another part of London far too expensive to live in, forcing the local shops out of business and spelling the end for north Walthamstow as we know it.

Despite marching with dogs at the front of the stadium, despite Duncan Smith and Gerrard's numerous photo opportunities, and hollow words, nothing has been done to save a unique part of London's rich, mixed history. Walthamstow Stadium is a place where the working classes can come together, have a flutter, a few beers and get change from £20. Just like Colindale's recently closed 'Oriental City', this is part of London's history that can never be replaced or filled in by any kind of legacy.

tion received yet. Some houses will be given over to so-called key workers though, so as a replacement for dogs, residents get police on their doorstep. Not a fair exchange at all.

ON THE STREETS

Walthamstow's big protest night was Thursday 31st July. The Save Our Stow campaigners were out in force, leafletting, urging people to show support. Sky cameras were there to capture the speeches to be made later on, in a break in racing. There was a fair turnout of locals, all heart-broken to see a place they know and love be turned over for developers' gold. Cleaner, Vasiliki Recorb said "There are nice people here, I have worked here eight years and made a lot of friends, I have no idea what to do now". Barrie Clegg, Walthamstow Greyhound Welfare Officer said "We will have a lot of dogs to rehome. I've been coming here since I was 15. There's no community anymore, nothing to do. Give people a chance to run the stadium. It's a family night out and there really is no winner in this. It's Walthamstow's Eiffel Tower, it's synonymous with the area.

The protest began after race five when everyone assembled out on the front, chanting "Save Our

Stow" before various names in the greyhound world came out to show support. Ricky Holloway, a trainer at the track told the crowd "We are sold out. They took our staff, they took our salary. There's so many people disappointed, everything round here has gone". Linda German, a champion trainer climbed aboard the soaand said "This stadium never lost money. The Greyhound industry sold us out. Lord Lipsey (President of the British Greyhound Racing Board) stand aside. You sold us down the river. You won't get rid of us. We offered £1mn more than the accepted bid. We await the developer's answer". A consortium member, vying to buy The Stow for £31mn to keep it as a dog racing track said "I've been coming here 35 years. We won't give up. There is money coming in and this is the best track in the world". The pretty speeches however took a turn for the worse when a David Beckham lookalike was wheeled out for the cameras. He told the crowd "I'm sure David wants this track to stay". Possibly not the defining moment of the Save Our Stow campaign, but it was what made it onto Sky Sports News the next day.

SILENCE

After the Save Our Stow campaign, CW tried to contact the developers for their

LETTERS

From Franco To Thatcher

Dear Class War

I was speaking to some of your comrades at the recent Bradford Anarchist Bookfair and they suggested I write to you with regards to the enclosed.

Back in the 70s there were several campaigns pointing out to holidaymakers the nature of the Spanish regime that was coming to rely heavily on tourist money.

When Franco died we printed a hundred or so cards (see below) which we planted in travel agencies and at Manchester Airport.

The idea is that Class War – come the day – might wish to do something similar for Lady Margaret.

Just an idea,

Peter,

The Cunningham Amendment,
Bradford.

CW Reply: Good stuff Peter – it looks like it is going to be all hands to the pumps, especially if a state funeral is held for the old crone. On the positive side, such over the top mourning will present plenty of targets.....

GENERAL FRANCO

IS A

VILE

OBSCENE

OLD BASTARD

Unfortunately, the statement on the reverse was printed before General Franco's death was announced. It should of course, now read

GENERAL FRANCO

was

A VILE OBSCENE

OLD BASTARD

ANARCHISM LANCASTRUM

North Korean State Controlled Transport". Argue that point at least with a Trotskyist and you could possibly win. Most of them hate the Kims but would probably quite happily own a South Korean fascist car!

As for 9/11 (CW Editor: you got there at last!) if you can find even one chip of paint off a jet liner at Shanksville I'll donate CW a fiver. Why is CW, the leftist, CIA sanctioned monkey-business brigade so frightened of 9/11 truth seeking? Is it because, like me, you fell for the original neo-con hog wash and cannot admit you are wrong? I met a guy who'd said, as he heard the news on the actual day, 11 September 2001, "That's the work of the CIA". Quick thinking eh! Of course they allowed it to happen at least. So where are the remnants of the Pentagon

REVIEW

"Disaster and Resistance – Comics & Landscapes For The 21st Century" by Seth Tobocman (AK Press, £14). With an introduction by Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Included on any list of great contemporary radical cartoonists or artists, Tobocman does not disappoint here. A core principle motivates his drawings – that if people understand a situation they

Not You Lot Again

It is becoming traditional for each issue of Class War to publish at least one letter from 9/11 'truth' loonies. The latest example of an argument that is characterised by its persistence rather than its skill, can be seen below:

Dear Klass War

Publish or eat humble pie and cucumber sandwiches with Boris Johnson!

I am now more convinced than ever that CW is a CIA allowed front to bring nutters to the frontline to have their heads bludgeoned by the riot squad PLC. Your apparent motive is to encourage futile acts of brick-wall head banging against capitalist/fascist police batons.

You will not debate Trotsky, Ha, ha, ha. That's because you could'nt win even against any one variety of his apologist revisionists, let alone a 9/11 truth campaigner. You are, perhaps unwittingly, agents provocateurs, sanctioned by the Thatcherite-Blair-Brown speakeasy Mafia of lies and broken new-speak promises.

If not Trotsky, then how about Stalin? It took Magnitogorsk and Stalingrad to defeat Hitler. As for Pol Pot he over reacted to the saturation bombing US puppet Lon Nol, but got lost along the way, because of his idiotic hatred of the Vietnamese. The US fascist bastard war criminals used him from the start, apparently because of his hatred for Ho. Maoists beat the US in Korea along with Soviet flown Rols Royce engined Mig15. This saved Kim number one and his Stalinist administration. Even so, "Long live

the work of the CIA... Of course they allowed it to happen at least. So where are the remnants of the Pentagon jet liner, and how come for the first time in history, three sky scrapers were entirely demolished by fire? You haven't bothered to examine the evidence because you are almost certainly footer fans who'd rather watch Euro fascist, capitalist lackey running dog footballers kick a bag of air, than actually do the serious homework on the 9/11 conspiracy.

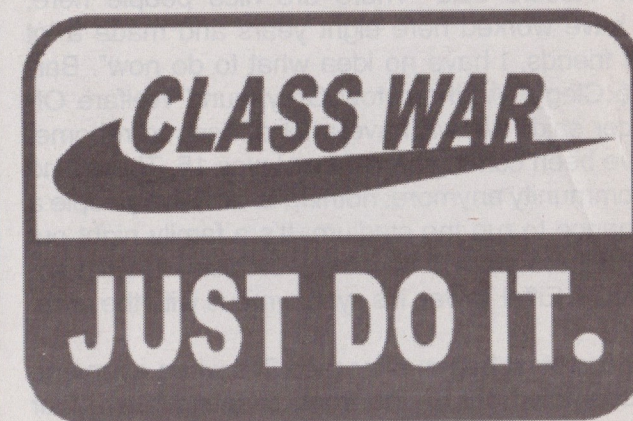
The latest conspiratorial campaign is against Boris 'the Banana' Johnson, Mayor of oil baron Toy Town. He supposedly started the war in order to steal half of Tariq Aziz's cigar case. This apparently is a universally accepted fact! The cigar case that is. Why he stole half a cigar case and not oil is a mystery. However like most eternally cheeky school boys, he loves souvenirs. At my prep school there was a boarder who showed us a bottle melted out of shape by the Hiroshima bomb! People use machetes because they don't have napalm. They use suicide bombing because they don't have cruise missiles.

I'm keeping your summer Issue 94 as a reference to remind me how far CIA/MI5 has 'allowed' the so-called militant left.

Yours sincerely, for workers control of coal, potatoes and DC Comics, Edinburgh.

CW Reply: How do you follow that? We now consider all correspondence on 9/11 closed. We leave it to our readers to decide whether this is because Class War is a front group for the CIA, desperately covering up the fact that 9/11 was an inside job, or because we are tired arguing with people who are potty.....

principle motivates his drawings – that if people understand a situation they can take action and change the world. Some of Tobocman's material is simple – that the funding of Islamist terrorism goes back to the days of Ronald Reagan, whilst other campaigns – such as that against closing fire stations in Brooklyn or the consequences of the USA's failed health care system – are less well known in the UK. The story of Kenyan woman Ruth Wangari might give activists a few ideas when it comes to responding to thuggish cops – we can certainly think of a few Met officers who deserve to be cursed with impotence, madness and death! By background a Jewish American, some of Tobocman's work was motivated by his travels in the Middle East in 2002 and 2003. These are probably his finest drawings, and a timely reminder to the idiots (especially on the UK left and anti-war movements) whose anti-semitism and anti-Americanism is at times out of control. How hard is it to hate governments and not their peoples? The sketches that will provoke most interest are those of New Orleans and the communities fight back after Hurricane Katrina. This is social history, presented in the easiest possible format.



THIS IS CLASS WAR

The Class War Federation is an organisation of groups and individuals who have come together to change the society we live in, to improve the lot of working class people.

This society is divided into classes based on control of its institutions and wealth. The Ruling Class - those who "own" the factories or natural resources - whether it's through shares or being chairman of the board etc, who are under normal circumstances supported by the Middle Class - those who gain their position in society by patronage of the Ruling Class - who do their dirty work of controlling and (dis)organising the working class who do all the necessary work. Such a society is the root cause of most of the problems experienced by Working Class people the world over. As the Ruling Class has every intention of keeping its privileged position it must be destroyed - this is Class War. Real change can only come about by working class people organising themselves to deal with the problems that they experience and to provide for ourselves. It is not about becoming better treated slaves but masters of our destiny. Direct action is necessary against the individuals and institutions who stand in the way of this. There is no alternative. Violence is a necessary part of the Class War - not as elitist terrorists but as an integrated part of the class - they started it, we'll have to finish it! Class society creates other abuses based upon the prejudices of the Ruling or Middle Class such as gender, ethnic origin, sexuality, disability. The Ruling

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The novel Lord Spencer tried to ban!

integrated part of the class - they started it, we'll have to finish it! Class society creates other abuses based upon the prejudices of the Ruling or Middle Class such as gender, ethnic origin, sexuality, disability. The Ruling Class often use these to divide our class. We must unite on the common basis of what we have in common - our Working Class background and needs. The Class must fight these divisions on all fronts. Above all the CWF believes that politics cannot be separated from life - and life from politics. We reject the missionary/righteous so-called "revolutionary" Left. Our politics must be fulfilling and relevant to our everyday lives. Working Class people must take responsibility for their progressive revolutionary politics - fly by night middle class radicals have been the bane of our movement for as long as the Working Class has existed.

Our Aim

Therefore the aim of the CWF is to increase the militancy and self awareness of the Working Class in defending their interests and solving their problems. We do this through propaganda, active participation and debate as equals.

Class War membership is open to anyone who agrees with the above, and has been in touch with their local Class War group for 3 months. Membership is £12 waged and £6 unwaged per calendar year - although you are free to pay more if you want to!

To contact your local Class War group, visit our website www.classwar.org

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Postal correspondence to Class War, PO Box 467, London E8 3QX.

The Class War National Secretary can be contacted at cwfntatsec@yahoo.co.uk

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SPORTS ROUND UP

£50? You're having a laugh!

It's often premier ship clubs who are most associated with ripping off their fans. QPR, though, have earned themselves a dishonourable mention, through whacking their ticket prices to a staggering £50 for their dearest ticket against Derby in September. Derby manager Paul Jewell hit the nail on the head when he declared that football clubs cannot keep bleeding the fans dry and expect them to keep going through the turnstiles. He went on, 'Fifty quid is a lot of money. Football in general, I think it's too expensive for the man in the street. Hopefully people will be sensible. We want to see full grounds. Certainly in this day and age when people are struggling for cash it would be nice if people could make football a bit more affordable for the normal guy in the street.' QPR wanted to push up the prices for Derby fans, from £30 to £40, but were prevented by an FA ruling. But that they should have

tried shows the greed and utter disregard the QPR board has for their fans. Although this is nothing new, it demonstrates the level to which non-premier ship clubs are unfortunately all too ready to stoop. Both Rams and Rangers fans made clear their anger over the price hike, with Derby fans celebrating Emanuel Villa's goal with chants of 'greedy bastards', a chant applauded by many of the home support. QPR fans have been organising in protest against the extortionate prices demanded, and we wish them every success.

The credit crunch is already starting to affect the 2012 London Olympics. Hackney mayor Jules Pipe's getting worried that the vast media centre – 1.3 MILLION sq ft – will have to be vastly reduced because of cashflow problems. It's feared that rather than a spanking new media centre, the



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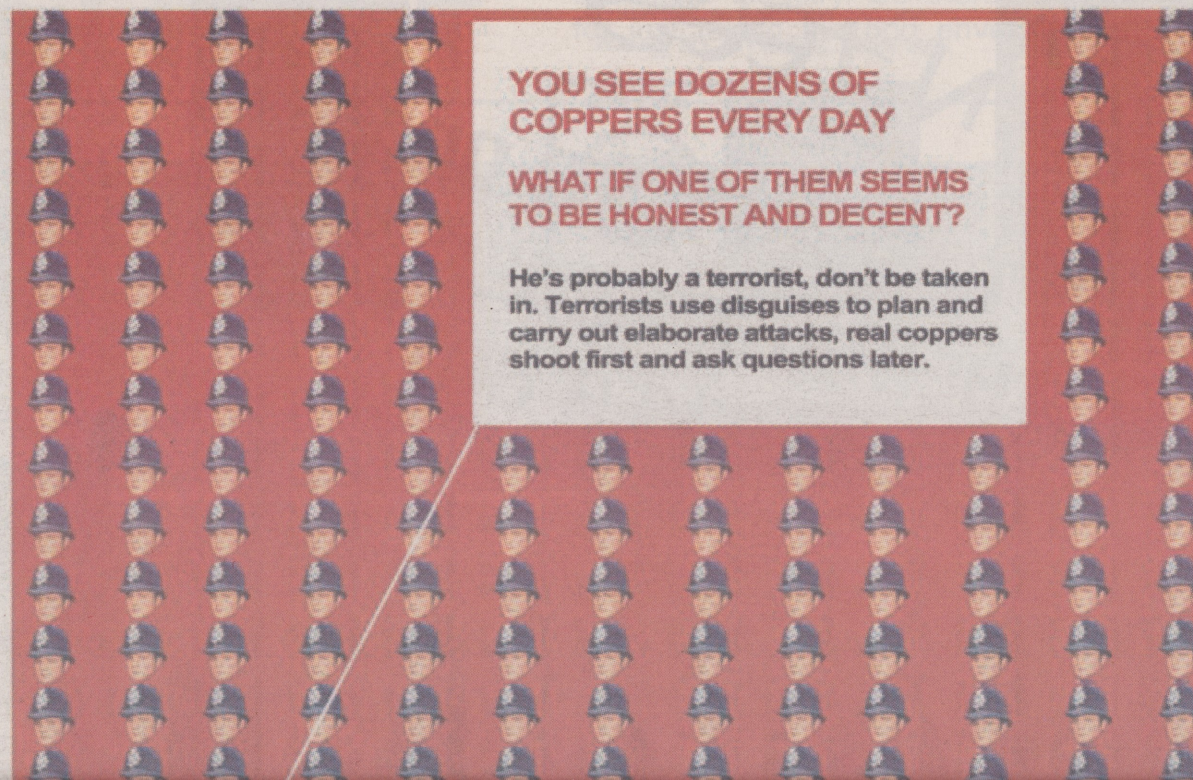
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But it's starting to look like this is another Millennium Dome white elephant. Only the Dome cost just £800 million, and the Olympics look set to cost twelve or thirteen times that. And all of this burden is almost certain to fall on ordinary people as private investors see just what a waste of money 'investing' in the Olympics would be, when they can pick up the land and buildings afterwards for a song.

Meanwhile, the first Olympic casualty has been the long-awaited – apparently

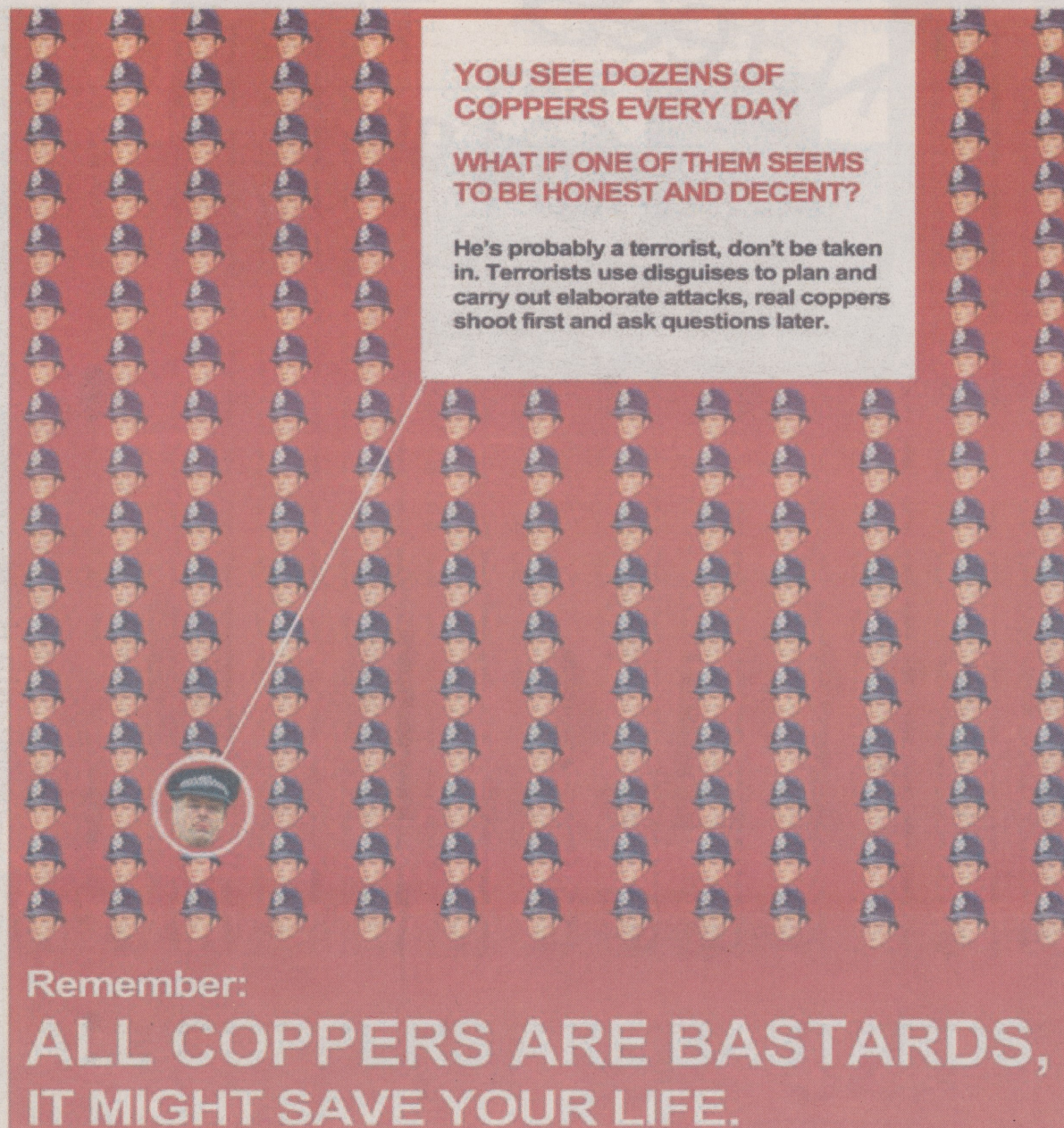


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Meanwhile, the first Olympic casualty has been the long-awaited – apparently – Mobile Tate. This was supposed to be part of the 'cultural olympiad' and to take worthy arts stuff round the country over the next four years. But it's been put on hold for at least two years while other, more traditional, arts projects are funded



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DEATH OF WALTHAMSTOW RACECOURSE

In the last month, London has lost another cultural landmark to yuppification, Walthamstow Dog Stadium. Despite a belated, forlorn, limp media front by the stadium's two local MPs, Neil Garrard and Iain Duncan Smith, apparently nothing could stop the Chandler family from flogging the track and 77 years of heritage to the highest bidders. 700 jobs will be lost, many of which were held by pensioners, to whom the track was their life, their social circle, their community, and in some cases their family.

The dog track opened on 29th May 1931 to a stream of opposition from locals, fearing an 'unmitigated nuisance' in the area. Lieutenant Colonel S.S. Mallinson (a local resident presumably) was so moved by hordes of working classes enjoying themselves in his area he felt compelled to write to the Waltham Forest Gazette saying there will be "undesirables running a desirable portion of town". Things were obviously a bit different back in Lt Col Mallinson's day, as now the area is a thriving working class community, full of locals who want the dogs to stay, not a load of yuppies gentrifying the area.

Walthamstow Dog Track was one of London's cultural icons - with entry just £3 - and people flocked from around the country to visit the stadium, giving all a fun, enjoyable, affordable night out.

IMPOTENT

The buyers, L&Q Group, Yoo Capital and KW Linfoot apparently spent £30m on a site containing two listed buildings and on top of a river full of sewage. Despite Waltham Forest Council and the MPs being up in arms over this, they were apparently powerless to stop it. In fact Waltham Forest Council were so powerless to stop it, they have actively permitted housing on the land and not the eyesore of a car park opposite, which, if any housing had to be built, would be a prime location. John Price, Duty Rota Head Of Planning at Waltham Forest Council told CW that Waltham Forest targets 50% affordable housing. This is merely a target, not a rule, so of course it can be broken. He went on to say there must be a replacement leisure facility built. How you replace a 77 year-old dog track is anyone's guess. A possible main reason for the council's lack of strong opposition is that the buyers must give an unspecified amount to Waltham Forest Council. He added that to counteract the loss of jobs, there

will be training schemes in place in computing and such. To the pensioners on the Tote I'm sure that will come as a great relief. We were also told that the area will be profitable because of the 'Olympic legacy'. Seeing as the land has no planning permission and work has not yet begun, houses will surely not be up by 2012 and, even so, what kind of legacy is a block of yuppie apartments?

On a trip to the track, I met Martin Kelly, the groundsman at The 'Stow. He said "This place will flood with sewage, I've known for two years this was going, but got just 90 days notice. Cleaners, the Tote girls here, they've been here up to 70 years and none of them will ever get a new job. Their wages here keep them going. The millionaires don't give a fuck about the workers". The racing manager, who asked not to be named, said "They want to pull out. There'll be no work. They'll kill the community and friends. My wife has been here 31 years and she's lost her pension scheme. We've had no answers. They let this place run down and now it's closing they want to give it a lick of paint for the first time in ages. Charlie Chandler (the owner) is making

a fast buck and so are the shareholders. They ran the place badly so it had to close".

PISSPOOR

On the off chance, CW gave Iain Duncan Smith a call, and surprisingly he was willing to speak. He took a chance to snipe at the Labour council when he said "They'll run the area down. It's a terrible planning department. There's no enforcement, they've no idea how to use the money. They have a terrible track record and they let the area dilapidate. There's no market for houses. Without the dog track, there's nothing there. Marks and Spencers wanted to build on the car park and that was snubbed. The council are not building council houses. The whole area will be under pressure to change and locals will be priced out the area. Central London is too dear to go out in, it's too drink orientated. There's a slow middle class takeover and the working class will be outpriced". Nice words, but on the night of the first "Save our Stow" night, Mr Duncan Smith, despite assurances, was nowhere to be seen.

The Labour MP for Walthamstow, Neil Garrard said there had been no planning applica-

tion received yet. Some houses will be given over to so-called key workers though, so as a replacement for dogs, residents get police on their doorstep. Not a fair exchange at all.

ON THE STREETS

Walthamstow's big protest night was Thursday 31st July. The Save Our Stow campaigners were out in force, leafletting, urging people to show support. Sky cameras were there to capture the speeches to be made later on, in a break in racing. There was a fair turnout of locals, all heartbroken to see a place they know and love be turned over for developers' gold. Cleaner, Vasiliki Recorb said "There are nice people here, I have worked here eight years and made a lot of friends, I have no idea what to do now". Barrie Clegg, Walthamstow Greyhound Welfare Officer said "We will have a lot of dogs to rehome. I've been coming here since I was 15. There's no community anymore, nothing to do. Give people a chance to run the stadium. It's a family night out and there really is no winner in this. It's Walthamstow's Eiffel Tower, it's synonymous with the area.

The protest began after race five when everyone assembled out on the front, chanting "Save Our

Stow" before various names in the greyhound world came out to show support. Ricky Holloway, a trainer at the track told the crowd "We are sold out. They took our staff, they took our salary. There's so many people disappointed, everything round here has gone". Linda German, a champion trainer climbed aboard the soaand said "This stadium never lost money. The Greyhound industry sold us out. Lord Lipsey (President of the British Greyhound Racing Board) stand aside. You sold us down the river. You won't get rid of us. We offered £1m more than the accepted bid. We await the developer's answer". A consortium member, vying to buy The Stow for £31m to keep it as a dog racing track said "I've been coming here 35 years. We won't give up. There is money coming in and this is the best track in the world". The pretty speeches however took a turn for the worse when a David Beckham lookalike was wheeled out for the cameras. He told the crowd "I'm sure David wants this track to stay". Possibly not the defining moment of the Save Our Stow campaign, but it was what made it onto Sky Sports News the next day.

SILENCE

After the Save Our Stow campaign, CW tried to contact the developers for their

comments on the matter. Funny enough, all three companies were very reluctant to call us back. The one that did, KW Linfoot had appointed Luchfords as their media spokesperson and I managed to talk to Marie Jackson from them, who sounded more like Michael Jackson with the needle stuck, as she repeated "No comment. No comment" to all my questions. Not sure why KW Linfoot needed to employ a media consultancy to say 'no comment' when plenty of people out there could do it for half the price they are on. I told her that one worker told me without the track and it's social life, she will just fade away until she died. Jackson's response "I think that's a bit harsh". Not quite. What is 'a bit harsh' is closing down a community, killing jobs, pricing out locals, ruining local shops, just so her employers can make millions.

SCANDAL

Jonathan Hobbs, head greyhound writer at The Racing Post was keen to talk to us. He told us this is a dreadful blow for sport. We hold out hope, with the current financial climate, the owners may take the money and run. Catford closed five years ago and now that's just an area of barren land. If that happens in Walthamstow, it'll be criminal and scandalous for the local community. What kind of legacy is that? Who would deny a community this facility? Chandler's younger family didn't want this and they didn't save it as a going concern. Not enough has been done to save greyhound racing. Shareholders just want their payoffs. London will be a one bedroomed flat soon."

The plan at present is for a circle of tower blocks, where the track used to be. There has been no mention of affordable housing, just luxury apartments and the like, making yet another part of London far too expensive to live in, forcing the local shops out of business and spelling the end for north Walthamstow as we know it.

Despite marching with dogs at the front of the stadium, despite Duncan Smith and Gerrard's numerous photo opportunities, and hollow words, nothing has been done to save a unique part of London's rich, mixed history. Walthamstow Stadium is a place where the working classes can come together, have a flutter, a few beers and get change from £20. Just like Colindale's recently closed 'Oriental City', this is part of London's history that can never be replaced or filled in by any kind of legacy.

